# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# MINES
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3091
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2016
Exploration of Land for Mining Activities
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**Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government is aware that only about 13% of the country's 575,000 square kilometers of land with geological potential has been explored, if so, the details and facts thereof;
(b) the state-wise exploration carried out by Geological Survey of India (GSI) during the last three years for gold and the resultant progress achieved in the same; and
(c) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized for carrying out exploration activities in the country, State-wise?

## Answer

(a): Geological Survey of India [GSI] has covered almost the entire area of 31.4 lakh sq. km. of the country's mappable area by systematic geological mapping on 1:50,000 scale. On the basis of this, the geological potential area of 5.71 lakh sq. km. has been identified for scheduled non-fuel and non-coal major minerals. Further, GSI has launched National Geochemical Mapping (NGCM) and National Geophysical Mapping (NGPM) programs. Of the identified geological potential area, GSI has covered 3.17 lakh sq km and 1.9 lakh sq km by NGCM and NGPM respectively. Private and public mineral exploration agencies launch mineral exploration programmes based on the above baseline data.

(b): During the last three years GSI has carried out gold exploration work in the states of Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh. As a result of the exploration work of GSI, 9.8 million tonnes of gold resources were established in the state of Rajasthan (6.78 mt), Jharkhand (2 mt) and Karnataka (1.02 mt) during the field seasons 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15.

(c): The details of funds allocated and utilized by GSI for mineral exploration activities in the country during the last three years is given below:
(Rupees in lakhs)
Region 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16
Grant Actual Expend. Grant Actual Expend. Grant Actual Expend.
Western 249.10 248.41 347.60 347.36 296.50 296.00
Eastern 203.50 203.56 353.45 353.30 603.72 600.47
Northern 47.00 46.75 84.50 82.92 117.50 115.22
Southern 266.50 266.46 309.00 307.76 548.84 555.15
Central 233.90 233.63 605.45 605.31 424.95 415.61
Northeastern 50.00 49.22 73.00 71.77 164.47 207.04
GSI (As a whole) 1050.00
1048.03
1773.00
1768.42
2155.98
2189.49

Western Region: Rajasthan and Gujarat.
Eastern Region: West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha.
Northern Region: Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.
Southern Region: Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Kerala.
Central Region: Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
Northeastern Region: Meghalaya, Assam, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

The details of funds allocated and utilized by MECL for mineral exploration activities in the country during the last three years is given below:
YEAR EXPENDITURE STATES IN WHICH WORK DONE
Fund allocated Fund Utilised
2013-14 900 900 Rajasthan, Nagaland, Karnataka, Jharkhand & Meghalaya
2014-15 1600 1600 Rajasthan, Nagaland, Karnataka,

Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra
2015-16 1690 1690 Rajasthan, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra & Tamil Nadu
(Rupees in Lakhs)

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